

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 604

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5460

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GE, PFOR

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO ATTEND CONDOLENCE CEREMONIES FOR
DECEASED GDR POLITBURO MEMBER

1. THE GDR HAS ANNOUNCED THE DEATH MARCH 26 OF SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND POLITBURO MEMBER HERBERT WARNKE, WHO HAD ALSO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE FREE GERMAN LABOR UNION (FDGB). WARNKE DIED AFTER A LONG ILLNESS AT THE AGE OF 73.

2. THE GDR HAS SENT INVITATIONS TO THE CHIEFS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN EAST BERLIN TO PAY CONDOLENCES IN THE HAUS DER GEWERKSCHAFTEN ON APRIL 3 AND TO ATTEND A STATE CEREMONY FOR WARNKE IN CENTRAL COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS ON APRIL 2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT, AS A RULE, U.S. AMBASSADORS SIGN CONDOLENCE BOOKS AND ATTEND MEMORIAL SERVICES ONLY UPON DEATH OF HEADS OF STATE, BUT QUESTION WHETHER EXCEPTIONS TO THIS GENERAL RULE ARE COMMON, SPECIFICALLY AT EASTERN EUROPEAN POSTS. AMBASSADOR INCLINED TO ACCEPT CURRENT INVITATIONS. EMBASSY REQUESTS GENERAL GUIDANCE ON MATTER OF PAYING CONDOLENCES TO GDR STATE PARTY OFFICIALS BENEATH HEAD OF STATE LEVEL AND WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON CURRENT INVITATIONS BY COB MARCH 31.COOPER

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Message Attributes

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